

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 04997 221102Z

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2205

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 4997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, UR, UN

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: USSR ON SPACE CONFERENCE, OSC
OBSERVERS AND LANDSAT IMAGERY OF SOVIET UNION

1. SUMMARY. SEPTTEL DESCRIBES DISCUSSION WITH WOV DEL 21 JUNE
CONCERNING DBS. OTHER SUBJECTS DISCUSSED ON SAME OCCASION
ARE REPORTED THIS TEL. END SUMMARY.

2. MAIORSKI EXPLAINED THAT MOSCOW HAS COME TO QUESTION THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION THAT THE
OSC AT THE CURRENT SESSION SHOULD ESTABLISH AN EXPERT TASK
FORCE ON A POSSIBLE SPACE CONFERENCE. THEY ARE CONCERNED THAT
SUCH A TASK FORCE WOULD BECOME, IN EFFECT, THE PREPARATORY
COMMITTEE FOR THE CONFERENCE. THEY ARE CONCERNED NOT ONLY
WITH THE FINANCIAL COSTS OF A CONFERENCE BUT ALSO DISLIKE
WHAT THEY SEE AS TENDENCY OF MANY LDC'S TO TREAT THE CONFERENCE
AS A TURNING POINT IN MAKING REQUESTS FOR SPACE POWER ASSIS-
TANCE. THEY BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR A TASK FORCE
TO BE SET UP AS A SUBSIDIARY BODY OF THE S&T SUBCOMMITTEE,
RATHER THAN AN AUTONOMOUS APPENDAGE OF THE PARENT OSC, AND
THEY WOULD LIKE IT TO MEET CONTEMPORANEOUSLY WITH THE SUB-
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PAGE 02 VIENNA 04997 221102Z

COMMITTEE AT THE LATTER'S NEXT SESSION (EARLY 78); THAT SESSION
COULD BE EXTENDED BY ONE WEEK IF NECESSARY. UNDER THOSE
CONDITIONS, TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WOULD, HOPEFULLY, BE AS
EXPERT, AND AS CIRCUMSPECT, AS THE S&TS. MAIORSKI SAID SOV
DEL MIGHT BE FORTHRIGHT IN SPEAKING UP ON THIS QUESTION SINCE,
AFTER ALL, WITHOUT COMMITTEE-WIDE AGREEMENT THE TASK FORCE
COULD NOT BE SET UP. BAKER INDICATED WE HAD NO DIFFICULTY

WITH THIS PROPOSAL WHICH IN CONFORMITY WITH OUR POSITION OF NOT HASTENING TOWARD SPACE CONFERENCE. BAKER AND MAIORSKI EACH REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING ANY SERIOUS ATTACK ON CONSENSUS PROCEDURES.

3. BAKER THEN NOTED THE REPORT WE HAVE FROM AUSTRIA THAT THE OSC CHAIRMAN HAS RECEIVED A CABLE FROM THE COLOMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ASKING PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS FOR COLOMBIA. HE AND MAIORSKI AGREED THAT THIS REQUEST COULD STIMULATE OTHER REQUESTS AND LEAD TO THE EXPANSION OF THE OSC FROM ITS PRESENT WORKABLE 37. MAIORSKI CONFIRMED A PARALLEL CONCERN; HE SAID HE HAS SPOKEN TO CHAIRMAN JANKOWTISCH AND BELIEVES THE LATTER IS CONSIDERING PROPOSING THAT COLOMBIA BE CORDIALLY INVITED TO SPEAK WHEN IT REQUESTS ON THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT ISSUE BUT NO MORE. BAKER AND MAIORSKI AGREED THAT PERMANENT OBSERVERSHIP ON ALL ISSUES BEFORE THE OSC AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES COULD, IN EFFECT, GIVE PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP IN VIEW OF THE COMMITTEE'S CONSENSUS PROCEDURES. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT AN OPEN DISCUSSION IN THE OSC WOULD BE UNDESIRABLE IN VIEW OF THE PREDICTABLE TENDENCY OF THE LDC MEMBERS TO STAND UP FOR THE REQUEST OF ANOTHER LDC, AND THAT HOWEVER DIFFICULT THE ISSUE MAY BE HERE AT THE OSC, THE DIFFICULTIES OF HOLDING THE MATTER OVER TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY--WHICH MIGHT SIMPLY VOTE ADDITIONAL MEMBERS--WOULD BE FAR GREATER. BOTH CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO WELCOME CHAIRMAN'S LIMITED INVITATION.

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PAGE 03 VIENNA 04997 221102Z

4. THE FINAL MATTER DISCUSSED WAS RAISED BY MAIORSKI CONCERNING AN EXHIBIT OF LANDSAT AND COSMONAUT IMAGERY IN A HALL ADJOINING THE MEETING ROOM IN THE HOFBURG. AT FIRST ASSERTING HE WAS SPEAKING ABOUT "A U.S. EXHIBITION" HE SAID SOV DEL HAD BEEN PLACED IN AN EXTREMELY EMBARRASSING POSITION BY TWO LARGE LANDSAT PICTURES WHICH USE INTERPRETED INFORMATION CONCERNING WHAT THE ACCOMPANYING COMMENTARY DESCRIBES AS "DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN THE KUYBYSHEV DISTRICT OF THE USSR" IN 1974 AND 1975. HE SAID THAT WHATEVER THE RESOLUTION OF THIS IMAGERY, THE PICTURES AND THE COMMENTARY INVOLVED THE USE NOT OF PRIMARY DATA BUT ANALYZED INFORMATION. HE OBSERVED THAT THE USSR POSITION HAS LONG BEEN THAT THIS MUST NOT BE DISSEMINATED WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE STATE WHOSE TERRITORY IS DEPICTED. HE LATER HAPPENED ON OTHER MEMBERS OF US DEL AT THE DISPLAY, WHICH WAS APPARENTLY ARRANGED FOR BY ORTNER (AUSTRIAN SPACE AGENCY) AND USES PROMINENTLY LABELED NASA IMAGERY. FACING THE LANDSAT IMAGES WHICH INCLUDED IMAGE OF PEKING AND GREAT WALL, SAHELIAN REVITALIZATION EFFORTS, THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTAR, ETC., WERE COSMONAUT PICTURES WHICH SHOWED ONLY SOVIET TERRITORY. WE ASKED MAIORSKI IF HE REALLY EXPECTED US TO SUGGEST WITHDRAWAL OF THE LANDSAT IMAGERY; HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT HE WOULD

PROPOSE. HE WISHED, HOWEVER, THAT WE TAKE NOTE OF THE
DIFFICULTY IN WHICH SOV DEL HAD BEEN PLACED. SUBSEQUENTLY,
MAIORSKI TRACED SOURCE OF DISPLAY TO ORTNER AND ORTNER AGREED
TO REMOVE IMAGE OF USSR TERRITORY AND REPLACE IT WITH OTHERS
AVAILABLE. LATER, BOTH ORTNER AND MAIORSKI EXTENDED APOLOGY
TO US DEL FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE OR MISUNDERSTANDING.MEEHAN

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